

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 7-15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the recited subject matter.

1. (Previously Presented) A sheet stacking apparatus comprising:

a first tray on which sheets discharged from an outlet are stacked, said first tray being movable between a stacking position at which the sheets discharged from the outlet are stacked and a first retracted position above the stacking position;

a second tray on which the sheets discharged from the outlet are stacked, said second tray being disposed below said first tray and being movable independently of said first tray, said second tray being movable between the stacking position and a second retracted position below the stacking position; and

a controller that causes said second tray to descend when the sheets are to be stacked on said first tray, said controller causing said second tray to stop descending when said second tray reaches a standby position where a distance between the outlet and a top surface of the sheets stacked on said second tray is a predetermined distance.

2. (Original) The sheet stacking apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a sensor that detects the sheets on said second tray when said second tray is at the standby position;

wherein said controller causes said second tray to initiate descending movement and then to stop the descending movement just before an output of said sensor changes from “sheet present” to “sheet absent”.

3. (Original) The sheet stacking apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when said second tray is at the standby position, said controller causes said second tray to ascend in response to a change of the output of said sensor from “sheet present” to “sheet absent,” and to stop ascending in response to a change of the output of said sensor from “sheet absent” to “sheet present”.

4. (Original) The sheet stacking apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when said second tray is descending toward the standby position, said controller causes said second tray to stop regardless of the output of said sensor.

5. (Original) The sheet stacking apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when said second tray is descending toward the standby position, said controller causes said second tray to ascend in response to a change of the output of said sensor from “sheet present” to “sheet absent,” and to stop ascending in response to a change of the output of said sensor from “sheet absent” to “sheet present”.

6. (Original) The sheet stacking apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a second sensor that detects that said second tray has descended to reach a lower limit when said second tray is caused to descend to stack sheets onto said first tray,

wherein when said second tray is descending toward the standby position, said controller causes said second tray to stop descending in response to the detection that said second tray has reached the lower limit.

7-15. (Canceled)